

Preliminary Amendment dated March 9, 2004  
Appl. No. 10/034,542  
Atty. Docket No. 33692.01.0051

In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-26 without prejudice.

Please add claims 27-42 to read as follows:

1 - 26. (Cancelled)

27. (New) A method for multi-level distributed speech recognition between a terminal device and a network device comprising:

providing an audio command to a first speech recognition engine in the terminal device  
wirelessly providing the audio command to at least one second speech recognition engine  
in the network device;

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recognizing the audio command within the first speech recognition engine to generate at  
least one first recognized audio command, wherein the at least one first  
recognized audio command has a corresponding first confidence value;  
recognizing the audio command within the at least one second speech recognition engine,  
independent of recognizing the audio command by the first speech recognition  
engine, to generate at least one second recognized audio command, wherein the at  
least one second recognized audio command has a corresponding second  
confidence value;

wirelessly transmitting the at least one first recognized audio command to a comparator;  
transmitting the at least one second recognized audio command to the comparator; and  
selecting at least one recognized audio command having a recognized audio command  
confidence value from the at least one first recognized audio command and the at  
least one second recognized audio command based on the at least one first  
confidence value and the at least one second confidence value.

28. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
accessing an external content server in response to the at least one recognized audio  
command to retrieve encoded information therefrom.

29. (New) The method of claim 28 further comprising:

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receiving the encoded information from the content server; and  
decoding the encoded information.

30. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising:  
prior to selecting at least one recognized audio command, weighting the at least one first  
confidence value by a first weight factor and weighting the at least one second  
confidence values by a second weight factor.

31. (New) The method of claim 29 further comprising:  
prior to accessing the content server, executing at least one operation based on the at least  
one recognized audio command.

32. (New) The method of claim 31 further comprising:  
verifying the at least one recognized audio command.

33. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
generating an error notification when the at least one first confidence value and the at  
least one second confidence values are below a minimum confidence level.

34. (New) A method for multi-level distributed speech recognition comprising:  
providing an audio command to a terminal speech recognition engine;  
wirelessly providing the audio command to at least one network speech recognition  
engine;  
recognizing the audio command within the terminal speech recognition engine to  
generate at least one terminal recognized audio command, wherein the at least one  
terminal recognized audio command has a corresponding terminal confidence  
value;

recognizing the audio command within the at least one network speech recognition  
engine to generate at least one network recognized audio command, wherein the  
at least one network recognized audio command has a corresponding network  
confidence value;

wirelessly transmitting the at least one terminal recognized audio command to a  
comparator;

transmitting the at least one network recognized audio command to the comparator; and

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selecting at least one recognized audio command having a recognized audio command confidence value from the at least one terminal recognized audio command and the at least one network recognized audio command;  
inserting the at least one recognized audio command within a form; and  
accessing an external content server in response to the at least one recognized audio command to retrieve encoded information therefrom.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising:  
prior to accessing a content server, generating an error notification when the at least one terminal confidence value and the at least one network confidence value are below a minimum confidence level.

36. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising:  
prior to selecting the at least one recognized audio command, weighting the at least one terminal confidence value by a terminal weight factor and the at least one network confidence value by a network weight factor.

37. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising:  
filtering the at least one recognized audio command based on the at least one recognized audio command confidence value; and  
executing an operation based on the recognized audio command having the highest recognized audio command confidence value.

38. (New) The method of claim 34 further comprising:  
verifying the at least one recognized audio command to generate a verified recognized audio command; and  
executing an operation based on the verified recognized audio command.

39. (New) A system for multi-level distributed speech recognition between a terminal device and a network device comprising:  
a terminal speech recognition engine operably coupled to a microphone and coupled to receive an audio command and generate at least one terminal recognized audio command, wherein the at least one terminal recognized audio command has a corresponding terminal confidence value;

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at least one network speech recognition engine operably coupled to the microphone and coupled to receive the audio command across a wireless transmission from the terminal device to the network device and generate at least one network recognized audio command, independent of the terminal speech recognition engine, wherein the at least one network recognized audio command has a corresponding network confidence value;

a comparator disposed on the terminal device, operably coupled to the terminal speech recognition engine operative to receive the at least one terminal recognized audio command from a wireless transmission and further operably coupled to the at least one network speech recognition engine operably coupled to receive the at least one network recognized audio command; and

61 a dialog manager operably coupled to the comparator, wherein the comparator selects at least one recognized audio command having a recognized confidence value from the at least one terminal recognized audio command and the at least one network recognized audio command based on the at least one terminal confidence value and the at least one network confidence value, wherein the selected at least one recognized audio command is provided to the dialog manager.

40. (New) The system of claim 39 further comprising:

a dialog manager audio command determined by the dialog manager from the at least one recognized audio commands based on the at least one recognized audio command confidence levels such that the dialog manager inserts the dialog manager command within a form; and

the dialog manager being operably coupleable to an external content server such that the operation executed by the dialog manager includes accessing the external content server to retrieve encoded information therefrom.

41. (New) The system of claim 40 further comprising:

wherein the dialog manager retrieves the encoded information from the content server in response to the dialog manager audio command.

42. (New) The system of claim 41 further comprising:

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6 a speech synthesis engine operably coupled to the dialog manager, wherein the speech synthesis engine receives speech encoded information from the dialog manager and generates speech formatted information; and  
a speaker operably coupled to the speech synthesis engine, wherein the speaker receives the speech formatted information and provides an output message.

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